CLAIMS

1. An adaptive cruise control device for a vehicle including means for re-engaging an adaptive cruise control function after the vehicle has been brought to a halt, said means for re-engaging being adapted to respond to a momentary press and release of the vehicle's throttle pedal.

2. An adaptive cruise control device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1 in which said means for re-engaging is further adapted to be responsive to the output of a distance sensor for measuring the distance between said vehicle and a preceding vehicle.

3. An adaptive cruise control device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 2 and further including a warning device for alerting the driver of said vehicle of the proximity of the preceding vehicle.

4. An adaptive cruise control system as claimed in any preceding claim in which the means for re-engaging is responsive to an input from a manually operated switch.

5. A vehicle including the adaptive cruise control device of any preceding claim.

6. A method for re-engaging an adaptive cruise control function in a vehicle after the vehicle has been brought to a halt, the method including the steps of; detecting a momentary press and release of the vehicle's throttle pedal and re-engaging the adaptive cruise control function in response thereto.

7. A method for re-engaging an adaptive cruise control function as claimed in claim 6 including the further step of monitoring the distance between the vehicle and a preceding vehicle and re-engaging the adaptive cruise control function only if the distance exceeds a preset threshold.

8. A method for re-engaging an adaptive cruise control function as claimed in claim 7 including the further step of issuing a warning to the driver of the vehicle if the distance is equal to or less than the pre-set threshold.

9. An adaptive cruise control system for a vehicle substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.